CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of indicating a status affected by the performance of an ALU mathematical operation, comprising:

executing an ALU mathematical operation instruction on a set of source operands;

determining that the ALU mathematical operation instruction corresponds to an ALU mathematical operation instruction with carry;

producing a result based on the set of source operands in accordance with the ALU mathematical operation instruction; and

setting a status flag based on the result.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of setting the status flag includes the step of determining that the result is a non-zero value.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of setting the status flag includes the step of clearing the status flag by writing a value of zero to the status flag.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the step of setting the status flag includes the step maintaining the value of zero in the status flag until an ALU mathematical operation instruction without carry is determined.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of setting the status flag includes the step of determining that the result is a zero value.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the step of setting the status flag includes the step of maintaining the value in the status flag.

7. A processor for indicating a status affected by the performance of an ALU mathematical operation, comprising:

an ALU operable to:

execute an ALU mathematical operation instruction on a set of source operands;

determine that the ALU mathematical operation instruction corresponds to an ALU mathematical operation instruction with carry;

produce a result based on the set of source operands in accordance with the ALU mathematical operation instruction; and

set a status flag based on the result.

8. The processor according to claim 7, further comprising the ALU operable to determine that the result is a non-zero value.

9. The processor according to claim 8, further comprising the ALU operable to clear the status flag by writing a value of zero to the status flag.

10. The processor according to claim 9, further comprising the ALU operable to maintain the value of zero in the status flag until an ALU mathematical operation instruction without carry is determined.

11. The processor according to claim 7, further comprising the ALU operable to determine that the result is a zero value.

12. The processor according to claim 11, further comprising the ALU operable to maintain the value of the status flag.